National Action Plan for Tourism

2429. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tourist Department had formulated a National Action Plan for Tourism (NAPT) and recently prepared a Strategy Paper seeking Rs. 39,100 crores from Government, Private and Finance Institutions for integrated development; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A strategy paper was prepared by the Ministry of Tourism in 1996. In May 1998 the Govt. has formed a Group of Ministers to examine and recommend various steps for the development and promotion of tourism in the country.

Foreign exchange from tourism industry

2430. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourism industry is the third largest foreign exchange earner after garments and jewellery, earning Rs. 8196 crores in 1995; and

(b) the reasons for which Government are not investing enough in this sector since it has an inherent high growth potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF - TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Tourism is the third largest foreign exchange earner of the country and during 1995-96, the estimated foreign exchange earning was Rs. 9185.88 crores.

(b) The budget allocation of Department of Tourism for the year 1995-96 was Rs. 92.00 crores. This amount was spent on tourism infrastructue development, publicity and marketing and human resource development. The budget allocation of Department of Tourism for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 90.00 crores and Rs. 110.35 crores respectively. For 1998-99, the budget allocation is Rs. 160.50 crores.

detailed financial estimate for setting up this village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes Sir

(b) The State Government has not approached Ministry of Tourim for sanction of the project. However the Memorandum of understanding signed by the State with the Austec Gaming Alliance USA envisages that necessary approvals of Central Government and authorities concerned shall be obtained.

(c) According to the information received from the State Government, the facilities proposed at "Sun Village" would include, inter alia, accommodation units, a Golf Course, Water Sports Centre, a Commercial Shopping Complex, Yoga Centre, Convention Centre, and development of an airport at an approximate cost of USD 500 million.

Development of Harappan site in Kutch

2428. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts of ASI have found Harappan site at Dholavira in Kutch District of Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have any plan for developing this site as tourist spot for International and Indian Tourists researchers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government for creating necessary infrastructure facilities of international level there alongwith the amount earmarked for the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, sir.